

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Amended) A heat trap assembly for a hot water tank comprising:

a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet; and

a sealing member disposed in said housing, wherein the sealing member

5 includes a tail portion, a post disposed substantially opposite the tail portion and a portion that is dimensioned to at least substantially cover the inlet of said housing to prevent loss of heat through the fluid inlet when no fluid is running through the inlet and allow fluid to pass around the sealing member when fluid is flowing through the outlet.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said sealing member includes a substantially spherical portion attached to the tail portion, the spherical portion dimensioned to at least substantially cover the inlet of said housing to prevent loss of heat through the fluid inlet when no fluid is running through the inlet and allow fluid to 5 pass around the sealing member when fluid is flowing through the outlet.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the tail portion is aligned with a central axis of the spherical portion.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the post is positioned slightly off center of a central axis of the tail portion.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a nipple adapted to attach to an associated inlet or outlet pipe of a hot water tank, wherein the housing is disposed in said nipple.

7. (Original) A heat trap assembly for a hot water tank comprising:

a cage having an opening that defines a fluid outlet;  
a seat opposite to said opening that defines the fluid outlet, said seat  
including an opening that defines a fluid inlet; and  
5 a sealing member including a post, said sealing member trapped between  
the opening that defines the fluid outlet and the opening that defines the fluid inlet.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the cage includes a rib  
that interrupts the opening that defines the fluid outlet.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the post is adapted to  
engage the rib when fluid is flowing through the fluid outlet.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the rib includes a curved  
surface.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the seat includes a  
beveled edge adjacent the opening that defines the fluid inlet and said sealing  
member includes a spherical portion dimensioned to seat against the beveled edge  
to prevent heat loss through the opening that defines the fluid inlet.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the sealing member  
includes a tail portion.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the post is positioned off  
center of an axis running through the tail portion.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein said cage includes a  
trapping member that traps said sealing member inside the assembly when fluid is  
flowing through the assembly, and wherein at least a portion of the tail portion of the  
sealing member remains disposed inside the opening that defines the fluid inlet  
5 when said sealing member contacts the trapping member.

15. (Original) A heat trap assembly for a hot water tank including;  
a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet;  
a sealing member disposed in said housing and including a first portion

that is adapted to restrict rotational movement of said sealing member in at least one  
5 of two perpendicular axes and a second portion that is adapted to restrict rotational  
movement in a third axis perpendicular to both of the at least two perpendicular  
axes.

16. (Original) The heat trap assembly of claim 15, wherein the first portion  
of said sealing member is adapted to restrict rotational movement in each of the at  
least two perpendicular axes.

17. (Original) The heat trap assembly of claim 15, wherein said sealing  
member includes a substantially spherical portion and the first portion extends from  
the substantially spherical portion in a tail-like configuration.

18. (Original) The heat trap assembly of claim 15, wherein said sealing  
member includes a substantially spherical portion and the second portion comprises  
a post extending from the substantially spherical portion.

19. (Original) The heat trap assembly of claim 18, further comprising a  
cage positioned in said housing, wherein the post engages a portion of the cage  
when fluid is running through the assembly.

20. (Original) The heat trap assembly of claim 15, further comprising a  
nipple adapted to attach to an associated hot water tank, wherein said housing is  
received in said nipple.

21. (Previously Added) A heat trap assembly for a hot water tank  
comprising:

a cage having an opening that defines a fluid outlet;  
a seat opposite to said opening that defines the fluid outlet, said seat  
5 including an opening that defines a fluid inlet; and  
a sealing member including a tail portion, said sealing member trapped  
between the opening that defines the fluid outlet and the opening that defines the  
fluid inlet.